

Application Serial No. 10/674,193
Reply to Office Action of March 31, 2006

PATENT
Docket: CU-3381

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims presented below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. (cancelled)
2. (previously presented) A curl straightening method for straightening curl of image receiving paper for sublimation dye transfer by allowing the image receiving paper to pass through gaps of a guide, the method comprising:
 - providing the guide with a first guide unit and a second guide unit that form the gaps by two planes parallel to each other; and
 - providing the second guide unit on an upstream side of the first guide unit in a feeding direction of the image receiving paper;
 - disposing the first guide unit and the second guide unit so that the image receiving paper is fed into the second guide unit with the image receiving paper bent opposite to a direction of curling of the image receiving paper, and so that a change in the feeding direction of the image receiving paper from the second guide unit to the first guide unit may be opposite to a direction of curling of the image receiving paper; and
 - allowing the image receiving paper to pass through the guide to straighten the curl of the image receiving paper.
3. (currently amended) ~~The curl straightening method according to claim 2, A~~ curl straightening method for straightening curl of image receiving paper for sublimation dye transfer by allowing the image receiving paper to pass through gaps of a guide, the method comprising:
 - providing the guide with a first guide unit and a second guide unit that form the gaps by two planes parallel to each other; and
 - providing the second guide unit on an upstream side of the first guide unit in a feeding direction of the image receiving paper;
 - disposing the first guide unit and the second guide unit so that the image receiving paper is fed into the second guide unit with the image receiving paper bent opposite to a direction of curling of the image receiving paper, and so that a change

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in the feeding direction of the image receiving paper from the second guide unit to the first guide unit may be opposite to a direction of curling of the image receiving paper; and

allowing the image receiving paper to pass through the guide to straighten the curl of the image receiving paper;

wherein the image receiving paper has stiffness from 500 to 2,500 mg in a direction parallel to a printing direction, which is measured according to JIS L1085 or JIS L1096, and a length of the first guide unit is from 10 mm to 100 mm.

4. (original) The curl straightening method according to claim 3, wherein the length of the first guide unit is from 10 mm to 92 mm.
5. (original) The curl straightening method according to claim 3, wherein the gap of the first guide unit is from 1 mm to 7 mm.
6. (original) The curl straightening method according to claim 5, wherein the gap of the first guide unit is from 2 mm to 5 mm.
7. (original) The curl straightening method according to claim 3, wherein the gap of the second guide unit is from 0.3 mm to 7 mm.
8. (original) The curl straightening method according to claim 7, wherein the gap of the second guide unit is from 0.5 mm to 5 mm.
9. (original) The curl straightening method according to claim 3, wherein an angle formed by the first guide unit and the second guide unit is from 45 degrees to 145 degrees.
10. (original) The curl straightening method according to claim 9, wherein the angle formed by the first guide unit and the second guide unit is from 55 degrees to 135 degrees.
11. (original) The curl straightening method according to claim 3, wherein a length

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of the second guide unit is equal to or more than 5 mm.

12. (original) The curl straightening method according to claim 11, wherein the length of the second guide unit is from 5 mm to 100 mm.

13. (previously presented) A curl straightening device,
wherein the device straightens curl of image receiving paper for sublimation dye transfer by allowing the image receiving paper to pass through gaps of a guide,
a first guide unit and a second guide unit that form the gaps by two planes parallel to each other are provided in the guide,
the second guide unit is provided on an upstream side of the first guide unit in a feeding direction of the image receiving paper, and
the first guide unit and the second guide unit are disposed so that the image receiving paper is fed into a second guide unit with the image receiving paper being bent opposite to a direction of curling of the image receiving paper, and so that a change in the feeding direction of the image receiving paper from the second guide unit to the first guide unit may be opposite to a direction of curling of the image receiving paper.

14. (cancelled)